

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the Abstract with the following:

-- A In a method for updating a hardware configuration of a networked communications device. ~~In one embodiment of the present invention,~~ a networked communications device is provided with one or more programmable logic units. A first hardware configuration is determined which describes hardware features programmed into the programmable logic unit. When an updated hardware configuration becomes available, it can be downloaded into a centralized file holding configuration information for the main circuit board and add-in options cards of the networked device. The programmable logic unit is re-programmed with the second hardware configuration to provide an updated hardware configuration. --